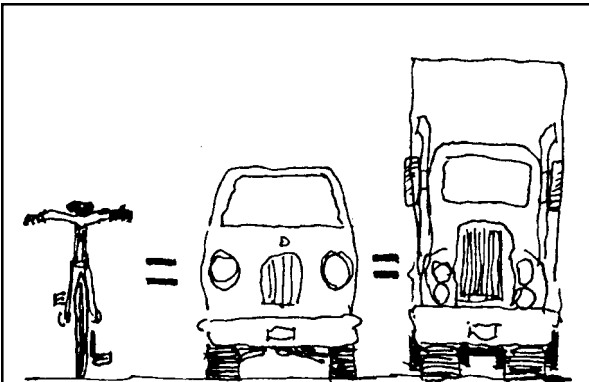


A friendly bit of advice...

Think of yourself as a bicycling “Ambassador of Goodwill”. That may sound corny, but if you treat others with respect and courtesy, you’ll get the same back from them. Try it and see!



Remember...

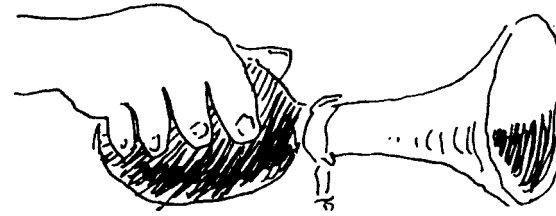
According to Florida law, your bicycle is a vehicle and you are its driver. You have all the same rights and duties as other drivers. If you want the rights, you have to accept the duties. It’s that simple.



What some bicyclists do gives all of us a bad name:

Some bike riders ignore stop signs and red lights, ride against traffic, weave all over the road, ride without lights at night and generally act stupid.

These people forget that everyone else see them when they pull such dumb stunts. All bicyclists get a bad name and are hurt by the thoughtless and childish actions of a few.



Bells and horns:

Using a bell or horn on a bike path is okay for warning pedestrians that you are coming. But don’t expect a motorist to hear one.

For more information:

We’ve got all kinds of bike riding info. If you want more, write to us:

State Pedestrian/Bicycle Program
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 82
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450
(850) 487-1200
E-mail: theo.petrtsch@dot.state.fl.us
Web Site: www.dot.state.fl.us/safety

Local distribution courtesy of:

How to “talk” to people in cars

Some tips for bicyclists who want to get along better in traffic...



Tips for adult bicyclists

One of the most important skills you can learn is how to COMMUNICATE with motorists. You may not believe it is possible but it is.

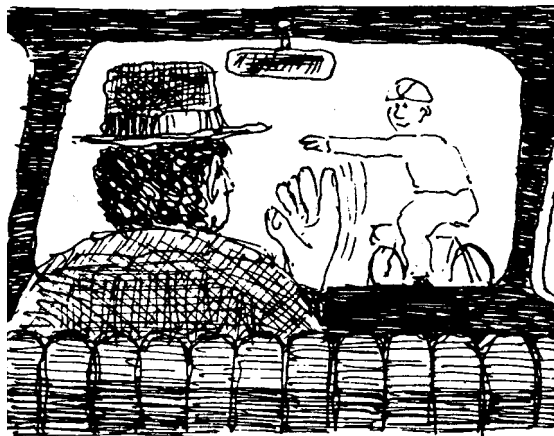
A cyclist who can let motorists know just what he or she is going to do will have fewer hassles while riding in traffic. Motorists appreciate knowing what cyclists are “up to” because it makes their driving job easier.

No one likes worrying about what those “crazy bike riders” are going to do!

Use your hands and arms: If you plan to turn or merge, signal and let people know. By the way, you can signal by pointing the way you want to go.

If you want someone else to go first, wave them on. That's what drivers do and you're the driver of a vehicle too.

If you're going to stop in an unusual place, hold your left arm out and down. That's the stop or slow signal.

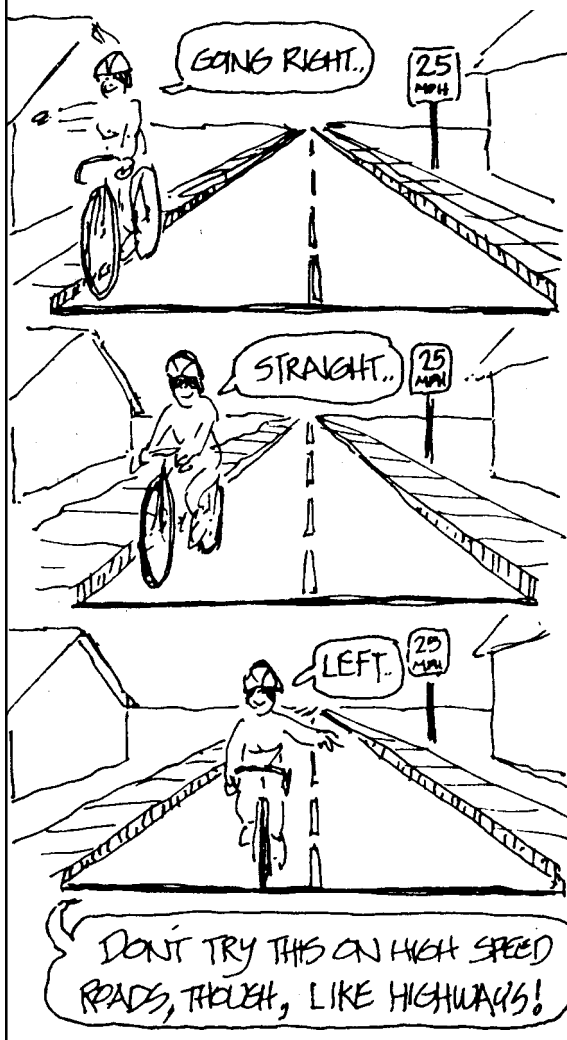


Important: Some people put too much faith in hand signals. Remember that holding your arm out will NOT stop traffic. You have to look back and make sure it's safe to go.

Also, when you do use hand signals, do it seriously. Don't just hold your arm out limply. POINT to where you want to go!

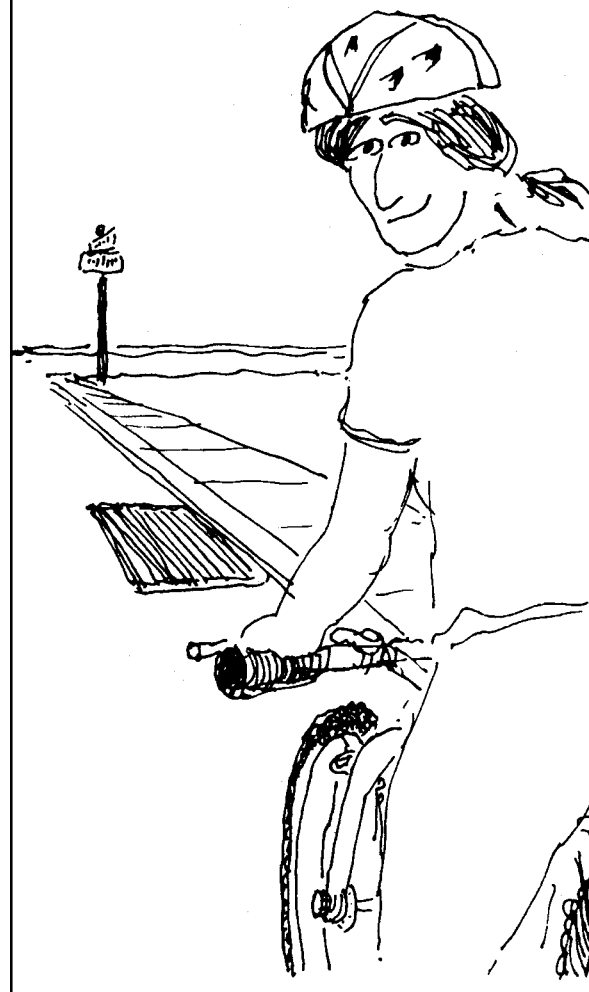
Use your road position: Where you are can say a lot about what you intend to do.

For example, if you're in a left turn lane, people will expect you to turn left. If you want to turn right, keep well over to the right side of the road. If you are going straight, try to keep out of right turn lanes.



Use your eyes: Where you look tells people something. Looking back at motorists, for example, gives them the idea you may be thinking of merging left.

This can be really handy because many motorists will actually slow down and watch you to see what's next. At that point, you can signal and move left when safe.



Use your voice: Sometimes you will need to really "talk" to a motorist... like when one starts to pull out in front of you! Then, the best way is to yell a warning like "HEY! LOOK OUT!"

Keep it clean, though. Swearing at dumb motorists and giving them obscene gestures may be fun, but it may get you into a fight AND surely won't make you any friends among the innocent bystanders!



Using your voice can also help warn pedestrians and joggers that you're coming. But don't wait until you're right behind them before saying something.